

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 3, 11, 12, 21 and 26 have been amended. Claims 3-26 remain pending in this application following amendment. Applicants respectfully request further examination of the application, as amended.

Objection to Claims 11, 20 and 26

Claims 11, 20 and 26 stand objected to because of certain informalities. Applicants have amended these claims as suggested by the Examiner to correct these informalities. Applicants believe these amendments overcome the objections.

Rejection of Claims 12-26 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶ 1

Claim 12-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner states that the limitation in claim 12 regarding the common data table and performance data table being in communication with the meta-data table are not supported by the specification. Although Applicants disagree that the term “in communication with” implies anything other than the recited elements being coupled to one another via zero or more intermediate elements, Applicants have amended claim 12 to remove any ambiguity. Applicants believe the amendment overcomes this rejection.

Rejection of Claims 3-26 Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 3-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Barry et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0216421). Applicants have amended claims 3, 12 and 21, from which the remaining claims depend, to clarify what was being claimed, but otherwise respectfully traverse this rejection.

The claims relate to a computer-implemented tool, referred to in Applicants' specification as the Surveillance and Reporting System (SRS), that allows a user to define or customize how statistical performance data relating to the performance of a telecommunication network is presented in a report. The user inputs parameters relating to the information that is to appear in the report and the configuration of the report, and the SRS uses that input to determine what information the user is requesting appear in the report and the locations from which the requested

information can be obtained, retrieves the information, and places the information into a report having the requested configuration.

One important feature of the SRS is that its user interface (see Fig. 1 and related text) allows the user to specify not only the report configuration but also the extent to which the report is to be based on "common data," i.e., data that defines fixed properties of network elements, such as their identification number, geographic grouping, manager responsible therefor, and the extent to which the report is to be based on "performance data," i.e., data that defined the operational performance of network elements, such as call volume, dropped calls, etc. In the final Office Action, the Examiner asserted that the claims as previously worded covered embodiments of the invention in which the user interface allows the user to specify the extent to which the report is to be based on common data (without regard to any performance data capabilities the embodiment may include) and other embodiments of the invention in which the user interface allows the user to specify the extent to which the report is to be based on performance data (without regard to any common data capabilities the embodiment may include). Although Applicants disagree with this interpretation and respectfully submit that the claims were directed to embodiments in which the user interface offered the user the option of choosing common data, performance data or both, on which to base the report, Applicants have amended independent claims 3, 12 and 21, from which the remaining claims depend, to clarify this. The Examiner appears to acknowledge that Barry et al. does not disclose or suggest this feature. Applicants therefore believe this rejection has been overcome and/or successfully traversed for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection have been overcome and/or traversed. Applicants therefore respectfully solicit allowance of the application. Should there be any further questions or concerns, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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